



Northern Superior Regional Chief Mel Hardy, Red Rock Indian Band Chief Allan Odawa Jr., Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg Gimaa Louis Kwissiwa, Anishinabek Nation Deputy Grand Council Chief Chris Plain, Fort William First Nation Chief Darlene Solomon at Red Rock Indian Band's Oct. 21 peaceful protest over the hindered search for ancestors that were uncovered during excavation for a Parks Canada building in Nipigon. - Photo by Kelsey Anger

## Red Rock Indian Band holds peaceful protest

By Rick Garrick

**RED ROCK INDIAN BAND** - Red Rock Indian Band held a peaceful protest on Oct. 21 at the Nipigon River Bridge and Highways 11 and 17 intersection over their hindered search for Indigenous Ancestors that were uncovered at a Parks Canada construction site in May and displaced throughout Nipigon. Carbon dating on one Ancestor confirmed that the Ancestor was buried before contact, in about 1404 AD.

"I believe we got our word out because when we first said we were going to go and block the bridge, they had 80-100 police staged in Nipigon," says Red Rock Indian Band Chief Allan Odawa Jr. "We negotiated with the OPP (Ontario Provincial Police) saying, 'Give us the north bridge, we can slow traffic down in a safe manner, hand out our information pamphlets, and then we can continue on,' which is what happened. We're just wrapping up now, no one got hurt, I believe our information got out along with the media and the public that's passing through today."

The remains of four Indigenous ances-

tors were uncovered during the excavation of the site for Parks Canada's \$37 million dollar Administration and Visitor Centre for the Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area in Nipigon, but the remains were incomplete. An estimated 150 loads of earth were moved from the site and relocated to multiple locations throughout Nipigon before an environmental monitor for Red Rock Indian Band who was on site could take action, and about 60 of the loads are still unaccounted for as of Oct 15. Because no remains have been found since August, the community believes the missing remains could be in the 60 loads of earth.

"Hopefully what we get out of this is that this never happens again — the Burial Unit should have been involved right away," Chief Odawa Jr. says. "There's four Ancestors that were uncovered, so we're just searching for the remains, and once that happens, we're going to reinsert them and have a four-day ceremony down at the marina. It was very frustrating because you shouldn't have to go to this extreme to get any action."

Anishinabek Nation Deputy Grand

Council Chief Chris Plain, Anishinabek Nation Northern Superior Regional Chief Mel Hardy, Fort William Chief Michele Solomon, and Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinabek Chief Gladys Thompson were among the supporters who marched with Chief Odawa Jr. during the walk from the Red Rock Indian Band office to the northern bridge, the Hwy. 11 and 17 intersection, and then back to the community's Chalet Lodge for a luncheon feast.

"I'm just wondering why we're here, why we have to get to this point," Deputy Grand Council Chief Plain says. "As you see, there's a very diverse crowd here, there's Elders, there's traditional people, there's community members, but there is no youth. I understand that was a decision to keep their children away from the heavy OPP presence here and I just wonder why we're restricted in our movements and restricted in our protest."

"There's a big crowd," Northern Superior Regional Chief Hardy says. "People are sick and tired of the actions that's being taken towards our people, especially when

we talk about our human remains. I was [at the site] and there were bone fragments spread all over the lot."

"If it was happening in my community, I would want the support of the Regional Chief and the Chiefs in the area to be there to stand together because together we are strong," Chief Solomon says. "The community members want the remains of our people to be brought home, they want them to be in their proper resting place, which they should be."

"They continued to work when they found the remains and that's not right, they should have stopped everything all together," Chief Thompson says. "So that's why I'm here supporting, I think it's for a good cause so that we can reach out to all of Canada that's watching and let them know that we care for our community and our families."

Parks Canada states that archaeological assessments on the property, including more than 80 archaeological test pits, were reviewed as part of the Impact Assessment requirements for the project in a statement.



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Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Linda Debassige and Deputy Grand Council Chief Chris Plain on day one of the fall assembly held in Thunder Bay October 29-30. - Photo by Marci Becking

# Political Quarterly Update: Fall

It is harvest season for many of our Anishinabek members and as Mother Earth shows us her fall colours, we are reminded of all the work that is needed to prepare for the winter season.

Politically, the Executive Council members have been very busy in their respective region. The focus for the Political Office has been to meet with each of the regions to listen to their priorities and the final meeting is with the Northern Superior Region. The priorities from these regional meetings will be put into a final report, which will be presented to the Leadership Council. Once approved, these priority areas will be the basis of the priorities that the Anishinabek Nation will focus on for the next few years and will be incorporated within our Doodem governance structure and departments.

Grand Council Chief Debassige and Deputy Grand Council Chief Plain attended many events throughout the Nation, which included a visit to the Jesuit Archives in Montreal to explore the records where our Elders/Survivors had an opportunity to view original documents. Another was standing in solidarity with Red Rock Indian Band in a protest held in October to advocate for the Ancestors unearthed by Parks Canada in its traditional territory and to be returned and laid to rest in our customary way, and for Parks Canada to be held accountable for the disruption of the site and the complete disregard for the sanctity of the burials.

Parks Canada must be held accountable for ignoring credible reports that recognize the cultural significance along the Nipigon Marina Waterfront. Trust has been broken between the First Nation and Parks Canada and the Minister of the Environment furthered by the recent inaccurate statements produced by Parks Canada that deflect any responsibility and accountability to themselves.

The 2nd Annual Anishinabek Nation Economic Development Opportunities (ANEDO) Forum was another great event that leadership attended. ANEDO was designed to be a premier gathering for economic development professionals, a place where connections are made, ideas take root, and excitement about the role of Economic Development Officers is renewed. It is a space where business owners, economic developers, and government and industry representatives come together to exchange best practices, learn about industry trends, and build key relationships across all sectors.

The event brought together representatives from our 39 member First Nations – Chiefs, Economic Development Officers, entrepreneurs, business owners, and youth – and our partners from government

and industry. Together, they shared stories, built connections, and set the stage for deeper collaborations that will benefit all our First Nations, as well as the larger regional economies.

The Anishinabek Nation Fall Assembly was very well-attended in the Lake Superior Region, held in Thunder Bay at the Valhalla Inn, on October 29-30, 2024. Day one produced many resolutions to guide some of the work of the Anishinabek Nation. On day two, our team technicians provided excellent presentations in support of the resolutions the previous day, and the updates provided were excellently done and informative. The atmosphere was very uplifting and our Nation will build upon the new vision of empowerment for our communities.

The Leadership would like to extend their appreciation for all the hard work that our Anishinabek Nation teams/staff have put into making the Fall Assembly a success. Our interim Chief Executive Officer Allan Dokis received many positive messages for the work that the staff do in support of our Leadership in their work moving the Anishinabek Nation forward and no Assembly can happen without meeting logistic challenges. Miigwech to our team!

Over the summer, we celebrated many achievements and successes within our communities, and as we transition into this new season, we will ensure the priorities and mandates are achieved in collaboration with all involved in making this our priority for our Nation. We are honoured to represent the Leadership and communities of Anishinabek Nation, and we will continue to work everyday on your behalf.

In honour of Anishinabek Veterans Day, on November 8, 2024, we recognized a 2-minute moment of silence at 11:00 am at the Anishinabek Nation Head Office and our Satellite Offices. On November 11, 2024, we remembered all veterans on this Remembrance Day and we honour them by continuing to acknowledge the sacrifices they made on our behalf.

We understand that community work never stops, and some members of the Executive Council had the opportunity to visit communities to both support work and celebrate momentous achievements.

Scheduled meetings and events attended by Grand Council Chief Debassige and Deputy Grand Council Chief Plain this quarter include:

- Aug 27-28 Chiefs Committee on Environment – DGCC Michipicoten
- Aug 27-28 Child Well-Being Meeting – GCCSault Saint Marie
- Aug 29 Evening of Excellence – GCC/DGCC Chippewas of Rama
- Sept 4 COO Leadership Council
- Sept 4-5 Moose Symposium

- Sept 5-6 Housing and Infrastructure
  - Sept 9 Robinson Huron Treaty Gathering – GCC Sudbury
  - Sept 10-11 COO Long-Term Reform of FNCFS Program
  - Sept. 13 Toronto Metropolitan University Pow Wow
  - Sept. 13-15 ONWA Annual General Meeting
  - Sept 16-17 Jesuits Archives and Prov Leader Mtgs – GCC Montreal
  - Sept 17-19 Mental Health Addiction & opioid Conference – DGCC Quattro SSM
  - Sept 19 AN Police Celebration 30 years of Excellence – DGC SSM
  - Sept 26 Lake Huron Chiefs mtg Sudbury
  - Sept 30 Every Child Matters DGCC Kettle & Stony Point GCC North Bay
  - Oct 1 Provincial Band Rep Conference – GCCToronto
  - Oct 3 AN Staff/GCC Days – GCC North Bay
  - Oct 4 COO Chiefs Committee on Housing & Infrastructure – GCC Zoom
  - Oct 7-10 AFN 3rd National Climate Gathering – DGCC Calgary
  - Oct 15-18 AFN Assembly – GCC Calgary
  - Oct 16 COO Leadership Council dinner mtg Calgary
  - Oct 23 COO Federal Lobby Days
  - 23rd NAN Appearance briefing
  - 24th Mtg with Jamie Schmale Ottawa
  - Oct 21 Red Rock Indian Band Rally – DGCC Thunder Bay
  - Oct 21-22 ANEDO – GCC and DGCC Chippewas of Rama
  - Oct 21 Southwest Regional Meeting – GCCChippewas of Rama
  - Oct 24 Southeast Regional Meeting – GCC/DGCC Chippewas of Rama
  - Oct 25 Kinoomadziwin Funding Announcement – GCC North Bay
  - Oct 28 AN Leadership Council Mtg - GCC Thunder Bay
  - Oct 29-30 AN Fall Assembly Thunder Bay
  - Nov 3-9 Treaties Recognition Week
  - Nov. 6 - Independent Electricity System Operator First Nations Energy Symposium
  - Nov. 8 Anishinabek Veterans Day
  - Nov. 11 - Remembrance Day
  - Nov. 19-21 Chiefs of Ontario – Fall Chiefs' Assembly Thunder Bay
  - Nov. 26-27 Child Well-Being Working Group Meeting London
- Upcoming Events and Meetings:
- The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Special Chiefs Assembly: December 3-5, 2024, in Toronto
  - Meeting Curve Lake Chief and Council: December 10, 2024
  - Anishinabek Nation-Ontario Mining Joint Advisory Council: December 10, 2024, Chippewas of Rama First Nation



Deputy Grand Council Chief Chris Plain with World War II Veteran Don Smoke of Alderville First Nation.



Grand Council Chief Linda Debassige and Long Lake #58 Chief Judy Desmoulin at the Kinoomaadziwin Education Body funding announcement on October 25. 'It is important our children see themselves in a system they're in - the Anishinabek Education System was always a goal and dream for the Anishinabek Nation. This funding is a welcome addition to the existing agreement,' said Grand Council Chief Debassige at the event.



Grand Council Chief Linda Debassige with former Assembly of First Nations National Chief Phil Fontaine.



Alderville First Nation Chief Taynar Simpson, Deputy Grand Council Chief Chris Plain and Southeast Regional Chief Marsha Smoke at the Alderville First Nation Remembrance Day Ceremony.



World War II Veteran Justin Roy of M'Chigeen First Nation with Grand Council Chief Linda Debassige.



Grand Council Chief Linda Debassige participated in the Women in Energy panel at the Independent Electricity System Operator First Nations Energy Symposium on Nov. 6.

- Photo by Dawn Lambe



# LAKE HURON ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS



The Anishinabek Nation's Health Transformation Team is facilitating initial engagement sessions with interested Chiefs and Councils from the 39 Anishinabek Nation member First Nation communities.

The Team is focused on engagement opportunities within the Lake Huron Region to introduce Health Transformation, discuss how it can benefit your community, and to have an open discussion on your community's health and vision moving forward.

Let's start the conversation!

Contact Lisa for more information:  
[Lisa.Restoule@anishinabek.ca](mailto:Lisa.Restoule@anishinabek.ca)





Heroes in Health award winner presentation at the Nimaaji-toomin Maamwii (We are on this Journey Together) Health Conference on October 23, 2024. Northern Superior Regional Chief Mel Hardy, Stella Solomon, Ashley Middaugh, Lauren Dewar and Anishinabek Nation Health Director Jamie Restoule. - Photo by Jesse Johnson

## Heroes in Health Awards presented at 10th annual Health Conference

SAULT STE. MARIE - The Tony H. Jocko Memorial Heroes in Health Awards were presented on the second day of the Nimaaji-toomin Maamwii (We Are On This Journey Together) Health Conference held in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., from October 22 to 24, 2024. The award is named after the late Tony Jocko-baa who worked tirelessly for the Anishinabek Nation as a Federal Health Policy Analyst.

Northern Superior Regional Chief Melvin Hardy was on-hand to present the awards to three deserving healthcare professionals.

### Ashley Middaugh, Whitefish River First Nation

Ashley is a Community Health Nurse for Serpent River First Nation. She is from Whitefish River First Nation and has worked with Serpent River First Nation for the past six years. Ashley is a very caring and compassionate person who has a strong work ethic and continuously goes above and beyond her role. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she worked relentlessly to provide vaccinations to community members. She worked long hours to ensure community members were safe and provided advocacy to members who needed to access external services. Ashley was instrumental in networking with Algoma Public Health to ensure proper communication was coming into the community and that vaccinations were being prioritized.

Ashley oversees health promotions events that have her working after hours and sometimes on weekends to keep the community informed on issues such as Diabetes and Heart Disease. She continues to support community members after hours with advice and guidance, and always gives 100 per cent of her time. She is a dedicated individual who cares for the community she serves.

Ashley continues to be an advocate for

community members who are going through difficult times with drug addiction, recovery. She provides resources to those that are in crisis. Ashley definitely has the team approach to helping her fellow co-workers with clinical services and programming. Ashley loves working for and with our Elders, taking the time to go out and visit, and listen to their concerns and issues.

### Lauren Dewar, Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory

Lauren is a Registered Nurse and Clinical Team Lead for Mnaamodzawin Health Services. The words that follow are simply not enough and are meagre in comparison to the joy and sincerity that Lauren brings to her co-workers, clients, communities, and agency.

Lauren first joined Mnaamodzawin Health Services as the Maternal and Child Health Nurse for the Healthy Babies, Healthy Communities Program in December 2016. She came from a background in clinical care at Health Sciences North having worked in the ICU and surgical care unit. She was a great Maternal and Child Health Nurse. Her mothering instinct was natural and complimented her nursing skills and charisma. She forged relationships with her clients and community health workers. Lauren was thorough, friendly, and non-judgmental.

During this time, she had the good fortune of sharing an office with a fellow co-worker who was fluent in Anishinaabemowin. Lauren soaked up the language and is a champion in our agency. She is a member of our Aadziwin Committee and has a key role in planning Mnaamodzawin's annual Culture and Language Camp, an immersive two-day event where staff play games, do crafts, and learn the Ojibwe language. If you need help

with a phrase or word in Ojibwe, then Lauren is one of the people to ask.

In October 2020, with the restructuring of Mnaamodzawin's Home Care department, Lauren became the Clinical Team Lead, primarily responsible for ensuring seamless patient transition from hospital discharge to care at home, amongst many other duties and responsibilities. In this Team Lead role and in previous nursing roles, Lauren goes above and beyond her duties. She has been known to work on her days off, check in on clients because she's driving by, deliver equipment over the weekend to last minute discharges, and even provide healthcare in questionable circumstances, a situation that Lauren calls 'cowboy nursing'.

In her personal life, Lauren is a mother of two, a wife, a sister, a daughter, and amongst other things, a friend. She is a volunteer for several community committees and even volunteers as a nurse at summer camp. She is a baker, seller of Tupperware, queen of girl's weekends, and knows how to tell a great story and enjoy life. At Mnaamodzawin, Lauren is a registered nurse, our Team Lead, our sense of humour, our confidante and our friend. Mnaamodzawin Health Services values her input, kindness, and dedication every day. Honouring Lauren recognizes her unwavering commitment to community health and wellness for many years. Her dedication has had a profound and lasting impact on countless individuals, embodying the true spirit of service and commitment.

### Stella Solomon, Nipissing First Nation

As a Community Wellness Worker at the Lawrence Commanda Health Centre in Nipissing First Nation, Stella runs one of the cornerstone programs. She has championed the Diner's Club, a vital initiative that feeds over 75 people aged 55 and up each month.

This program not only provides nourishing meals but also fosters a sense of belonging and community. Stella's tireless work ethic ensures that no detail is overlooked, and every aspect of the program runs smoothly.

Stella has consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to the well-being of community members, always going above and beyond to ensure that no one is left behind. Whether through hard work behind the scenes or direct interaction with members, she always gets the job done leaving no stone unturned and with a deep sense of purpose.

In addition to the services and programs, she sees immense value in volunteers, recognizing their contributions as essential to the success of community initiatives. She not only provides opportunities for volunteers to get involved but also celebrates them annually with a dedicated dinner in their honour—highlighting the importance of their efforts and expressing gratitude for their time and energy.

Likewise, Stella is passionate about health education, regularly organizing workshops focused on diabetes management and living a healthy lifestyle. Through these sessions, she empowers participants with valuable knowledge and practical tools to improve their quality of life.

Stella's contributions extend beyond adults; Stella is equally invested in the youth of the community. Each year, she organizes a highly successful youth Amazing Race, which provides young people with a full day of fun, learning, and teamwork. Activities such as canoeing, cooking, and team challenges culminate in sharing a meal, celebrating the spirit of collaboration and joy that the event fosters.

Her contributions have enriched our community in countless ways, making her a true health champion and an inspiration to all.

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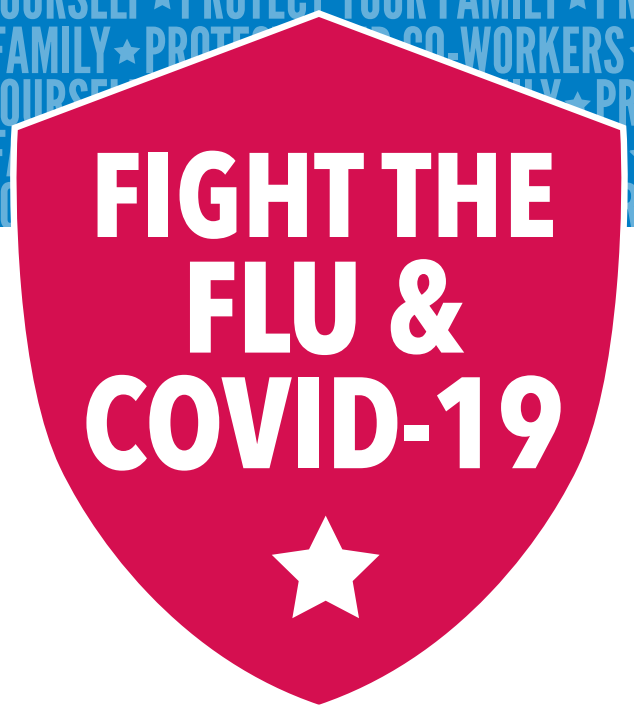
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# SAVE THE DATE

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February 25, 26, 27, 2025

More details to follow in the coming weeks.



# Anishinabek Nation leaders discuss economic opportunities and sovereignty at forum

By Sam Laskaris

CHIPPEWAS OF RAMA FIRST NATION – Though some improvement has been made, Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Linda Debassige believes plenty of work still needs to be done for others to learn about Indigenous issues.

Grand Council Chief Debassige was one of the featured speakers at the 2024 Anishinabek Nation Economic Development Opportunities Forum, which concluded on Oct. 23 at Casino Rama Resort in Chippewas of Rama First Nation.

Grand Council Chief Debassige spoke during the event's Leadership Panel on Day 1 of the Forum.

"Historic injustices are something we have all faced since time immemorial," she said. "We continuously advance and fight and negotiate and settle different aspects. Part of what needs to be done and should be done is education to government still and to industry as to what First Nations' history is but also as part of that history, our inherent rights."

Grand Council Chief Debassige said some politicians in particular do not have much knowledge about inherent rights.

"That's where we run into a lot of challenges," she said.

Grand Council Chief Debassige also said that after years of oppression, many Indigenous people are starting to realize they have strength and power to assert themselves

in different economic opportunities.

"What we need to do is continue to advance our positions from a strengths-based approach, rooted in our understanding of what the truth was and what is wasn't," she said.

The panel also included Scott McLeod, Anishinabek Nation's Lake Huron Regional Chief, who spoke about economic opportunities and challenges in his coverage area.

"First, we have to acknowledge that we come from a place of survival as First Nations because economic opportunities did not include First Nations," he said. "We were suppressed. And so, we survived. We survived for decades on what little we had and we became very creative and very good at surviving."

The Anishinabek Nation Economic Development Opportunities Forum featured a Leadership Panel on October 22. - Photo by Laura Barrios

Lake Huron Regional Chief McLeod also said Indigenous people came out of their survival period to an era where they could live comfortably and have gotten to a plateau of job creation and economic development.

"Where we need to be heading now, we always talk about sovereignty, but we don't necessarily talk about how do we get there? What is required?" he added. "Sovereignty comes at a cost and we can't rely on government funds, grants, dollars and



Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Linda Debassige spoke on the Leadership Panel at the Anishinabek Nation Economic Development Opportunities Forum held at Casino Rama Resort in Chippewas of Rama First Nation from October 21-23. - Photo by Laura Barrios

operating dollars to get there...Sovereignty, to me, means no reliance on government. It means being able to make our decisions for own Nations on our own, without having to report, without having to give money back that we didn't use in a fiscal year, and only operating with those colonial minds, boundaries that are given to us by federal government."

Marsha Smoke, the Anishinabek Nation's Southeast Regional Chief, was also a panelist and she also spoke on the importance of sovereignty.

"We're in a bit of a different environment when it comes to development," she said. "We're not in an area where we have a lot of resource developments such as mining, though there are a few active mines in southeastern Ontario. But also, we don't have the industries like forestry, which are really being looked at in the north from outside interests...We're basically the suburbs of the major cities, whether it's Ottawa Valley, Kingston, and Toronto. We're really in an area where the population is growing and expanding so quickly and move more into our territories."

And that brings another set of challenges. "The demands of our daily needs are

being strained and it's also something as the population moves more towards our home communities and our territories, there's a strain on the infrastructure," she said.

Meanwhile, another panelist, Anishinabek Nation's Southwest Regional Chief Joe Miskokomon, said what is being classified as economic reconciliation by many is deceiving.

"Equity partnership is a business deal," he said. "When you're paying for it, it's a straight business deal. Nothing has been reconciled."

Southwest Regional Chief Miskokomon said that's even though many believe progress has been made.

"There is no clear-cut definition to economic reconciliation," he said. "And it means so many things to so many people that it can be twisted and contorted, changed so that it's a mirage for economic reconciliation. But, it's not there."

The panel was moderated by former Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief and keynote speaker at the event John Beaucage.

Chippewas of Rama First Nation Chief Ted Williams was also on the panel. Among topics he covered was the importance of setting goals.



## SAVE THE DATE

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# Language Carriers honoured at Nbisiing Nishnaabe 36th Annual Dewegigewaad Pow Wow

By Kelly Anne Smith

NIPISSING FIRST NATION—The Nbisiing Nishnaabe 36th Annual Dewegigewaad Pow Wow has a powerful theme of community strength in the language. Mindy Lariviere, Culture and Heritage Manager for Nipissing First Nation explains the name of the event.

"This year for the 36th annual pow wow, we've focused in on our language yet again to stress the importance. Niigaaniimin Ji-Nishnaabemyaang, that means going forward with the language. We're taking the language and we're going to move forward. We're trying to get back and reconcile all of our language that we've lost over the years and do it as a community so everyone can see who still kept their language alive. By moving forward into our future, our kids are here watching and they can see what's happening and what's important in our community."

In a special Blanket Ceremony, 14 Language Carriers were honoured for their heritage and work carrying the language. Standing behind them were almost as many language teachers. As an Honour Song played, all of the dancers took part dancing in place in a large circle joining up to the Language Carriers. Head Youth Male dancer Ouske Couchie-Bobb of Nipissing First Nation-Anishinabe/Sto:lo; Head Female dancer Brooklyn Sawyer of Nipissing First Nation; and Head Female Youth dancer Mya Katt of Nipissing First Nation and Temagami First

Nation danced for the revered Language Carriers and teachers.

The Cultural Events Coordinator Brady Penasse thinks more dancers are coming out every year.

"We were dancing late into our evening with our Saturday Night Live for the second year. I was very proud to see the amount of dancers we had into the evening again."

Mindy Lariviere spoke on the many talented youth dancing, saying, "The young people are coming because we are getting stronger."

"A part of the calls to action in the education systems is that we have our truth and reconciliation at the forefront for our people, for our kids in the schools. All the teachers here teach language. They also give them culture. They're learning about who they are at school. They're getting credits at a post-secondary level for being Anishnaabe, for beading their outfits. And Tory Fisher is the head of that curriculum that was drawn out."

Nipissing First Nation Gimaa Cathy Bellefeuille-Stevens says every year, the Pow Wow gets better and bigger.

"It's because we have the finest organizers around so of course it gets better every year and the weather cooperated. And we have more community members that are coming back. We had this opportunity to allow repatriation of some of the community members, discovering family members we



From left, Head female youth dancer Mya Katt of Nipissing First Nation and Temagami First Nation, Head Female dancer Brooklyn Sawyer of Nipissing First Nation, and Head Youth Male dancer Ouske Couchie-Bobb of Nipissing First Nation, Anishinabe/Sto:lo, dance for revered Language Carriers and teachers during the Nipissing First Nation Traditional Pow Wow.

didn't realize we had, making new friends, so there's lots happening here. It's been an excellent couple of days."

Gimaa Bellefeuille-Stevens also spoke on the ceremony to honour the Language Carriers.

"We also have lots of teachers of the language. Even during the Pow Wow, you hear lots of language happening. It's inspiring. It's amazing."

The pow wow was a bustle of activity at information booths, vendors and food offerings. The night before the Traditional Pow Wow, Ariel Nakogee became Miss Nipissing First Nation.

Councillor and community historian Joan McLeod Shabogesic explained that the Nipissing First Nation Pow Wow is very traditional.

"It's made for family gatherings. What I

found this year is that a lot of people have come back, that this is their first time back. And they really like it that they're meeting up with relatives and friends," McLeod Shabogesic said. "Even seeing family members meet nieces and nephews from 20-30 years ago, it's really nice to see."

Bob Goulais was given kudos for his skill as a master of ceremonies and protocol by Glenna Beaucage on Facebook.

"Like Christina River-Beaucage said at the closing of the pow wow, 'I lift my feather to MC Bob Goulais. His lead makes the pow wow fun; he provides teachings, he explains what is happening and why things are the way they are here, he invites others to share, he recognizes others, encourages the youth. He keeps a flow to the pow wow. Simply one of the best. Gchi miigwech Bob Goulais for another year of pow wow leadership. Aho.'"

*miigwech*



## Provincial First Nation Representative Conference

On behalf of Koganaawsawin, the coordinating body of the Anishinabek Child, Youth, and Well-Being System, we would like to extend our appreciation to everyone who attended this year's Provincial First Nation Representative Conference, held October 8-10, 2024, at the Holiday Inn Toronto International Airport.

The annual Conference continued to be technician-led, with the overall goal to hear First Nations share their successes and challenges in enhancing their community's First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) Program. A special thank you to the communities of Long Lake #58, Six Nations, Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory, and Biigtigong Nishnaabeg for sharing their stories.

Agenda topics at this year's Conference included: suicide prevention and life promotion, litigation strategies: duty to consult, self-care for frontline workers using the medicine wheel, Kids Help Phone, Moushoom and Trout Case Class Action Settlement, FNCFS Program funding, an update on the Long-Term Reform of the FNCFS Program, Jordan's Principle, and repatriation.

A special thank you also goes to our Master of Ceremonies Nicole Richmond, who also took the time to make ribbon skirts for those participating in the Conference scavenger hunt.

The invaluable best practices shared throughout the three-day Conference will support communities in overcoming barriers - further enabling them to access and deliver the programs and services needed for First Nation children and families to thrive.

*NoREEN Conway*  
Band Representative Liaison



Mike Diabo of Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg was a panellist for the Traditional Knowledge and Governance for the Protection of Moose Populations in and Around La Verendrye Park, Quebec on Day 2 of the Mooz Maawanjiding – Moose Symposium in Ketegaunseebee from September 4 to 5, 2024.

## Moose co-management a priority at Anishinabek Nation Mooz Maawanjiding—Moose Symposium

*By Laura Barrios*

KETEGAUNSEEBEE (GARDEN RIVER FIRST NATION) — The Anishinabek Nation hosted its Mooz Maawanjiding – Moose Symposium in Ketegaunseebee from September 4 to 5, to create connections amongst mooz (moose) advocates and reconnect participants to their relationship with the mooz to better understand their health concerns, and explore management practices and research methods.

While Day 1 set the foundational knowledge for symposium participants, exploring the Anishinabek and mooz relationship, and mooz health and research, Day 2 focussed on mooz management, harvesting and planning, and the next steps forward on how to best support First Nations as they continue to care for mooz.

A common theme woven throughout the symposium and more heavily emphasized on Day 2 was the concern surrounding mooz management.

“There were over 200 studies that were looked at and analyzed to see what the common themes were and what the findings cite. And it was very easy to see that the three main ones include deforestation—loss of habitat, clear-cutting—all of these different forestry operations impacting not just moose, but all ecosystems and life cycles right down to microorganisms.

Number two was overdistribution of tags—over-selling more hunting tags than what the population can support driven by capitalism... And the third one is climate change,” noted Mike Diabo of Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg during his panel on Traditional Knowledge and Governance for the Protection of Moose Populations in and Around La Verendrye Park, Quebec. “I think that having that information demonstrating these trends across a vast number of regions is powerful... For families that depend on that for survival, it breeds food insecurity and all of the health impacts that come with that.”

“Cows and calves are the future of moose

population that our Anishinaabe families rely on for sustenance and cultural continuity; I personally don’t think that it’s right that the government gives out more cow and calf tags than bull tags,” expressed participant Aaron Jones, Garden River First Nation citizen, Fish and Wildlife Coordinator for Lands and Resources Department in his community, and harvester surrounding overdistribution of hunting tags.

“We’re confronted with a number of different issues within the treaty territory, we have clear-cutting that we have to deal with. There’s no place for the moose to go,” expressed another participant on the impact of clear-cutting.

Other considerations for the mismanagement of mooz are more deeply rooted, namely external settler governing bodies creating policies and regulations that do not align with traditional knowledge and practices, and those same governing bodies authorizing non-Treaty rights holders to hunt within First Nation territories.

Anishinabek Nation Lake Huron Regional Chief Scott McLeod points to provincial policies having opened the door for Métis rights and assertions throughout Ontario.

“There’s no archaeological evidence, no oral evidence in our histories in our communities of there being Métis communities, and yet, you give them rights to harvest our moose in our territories without any interference,” expressed Lake Huron Regional Chief McLeod during a presentation on Ontario Moose Management Policy.

He added that the provincial government does not recognize the inherent First Nation jurisdiction, particularly with regards to harvesting rights.

“So, one of the things that we’ve noticed in your policies is that on one hand, you recognize the jurisdiction of First Nations by having to require a Shipment Letter. If somebody from the (Northern) Superior Region came to hunt in my territory, you

say, ‘You must have a Shipment Letter that says that the Chief in that area gave you permission to be there’. So, you recognize our jurisdiction—you’re saying that they require that letter, that permission letter, to hunt in our territory. But on the other hand, you simply allow Métis to hunt anywhere in Ontario under the guise that they’re Métis, whether they’ve proven that or not. We maintain that there are no Métis in Ontario; that there’s mixed ancestry, yes, but it’s up to the First Nations to claim those people as theirs, not to create another nation under provincial and federal legislation.”

Despite being from various First Nations across Turtle Island, there are parallels in mooz management grounded by respect towards mooz and recognizing the benefits of marrying the traditional knowledge passed on since time immemorial and Western science.

Clifford Paul, Moose Management Coordinator at the Unama’ki Institute of Natural Resources, shared his presentation on the Moose Management Initiative: The Mi’kmaq Way of Resource Management and Practicing Treaty Rights on Day 2 of the Mooz Maawanjiding.

“I do my work in a way that I incorporate my traditional knowledge of growing up as a Mi’kmaq person in our territory – hunting, fishing, hearing the stories from our Elders, stories being passed down from generation to generation,” explained Clifford Paul, Moose Management Coordinator at the Unama’ki Institute of Natural Resources, as he explored the Two-Eyed Seeing Approach described as dancing in two worlds, carrying two sets of knowledge, two ways of determining the world. “You have your traditional stories, traditional knowledge, but also...I have my...highschool diploma, university degree, my training...I have my Western education. I combine traditional knowledge with the modern Western scientific knowledge, and I take these and weave that fabric into what a traditional moose management plan should look like where our Elders, community

members, harvesters provide input and they help build it.”

When exploring the next steps forward on how to best support First Nations as they continue to care for mooz, suggestions came forward that incorporate both sets of knowledge.

“We can support our communities with Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping, which captures, stores, manipulates, and organizes spatial data into maps, stories—however you’d like to make your vision come to life—it brings all of this data together from all of these areas into one space,” stated Rhonda Gagnon, Anishinabek Nation Lands and Resources Manager, during her Using GIS for Mapping and Monitoring Moose presentation.

“These challenges require our collective attention. We need Western science, but we need our culture to create the blend and balance. As we move forward, we need to have co-management... Government isn’t going anywhere, we’re not going anywhere, so we have to work together and get past our differences. This marries the First Nation stewardship with the conservation,” expressed a symposium participant.

“It’s up to us to make sure that the non-Indigenous hunters are also following the law so that we’re not fighting for space that’s ours to ensure our harvest is successful,” added another participant. “Contact the MNR (Ministry of Natural Resources) if there are people encroaching on our territory.”

Day 2 of the Mooz Maawanjiding—Moose Symposium included the Moose Harvest Activities within Anishinabek First Nations Panel, featuring Adam Christensen of Red Rock Indian Band; Dale Benoit Zohr of Algonquins of Pikwākanagān; and Saul Bomberry with United Chiefs and Councils of Mnídoo Mnising.

The MNR also shared its insight on topics including Ontario Moose Management Policy, an Overview of Moose Aerial Inventory Surveys, and Factors in Developing Moose Harvest and Tag Quotas.

# Be Money Wise!

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Through a seven-year community consultation process, the Anishinabek Nation drafted the *Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Law* under First Nations' inherent jurisdiction to child and youth well-being, and family unity.

In 2015, the Chiefs-in-Assembly approved the Law in-principle and directed the Anishinabek Nation to present the Law to its 39 member First Nations for their individual review and approval.

To date, 22 Anishinabek First Nations have chosen to enact the Law.

Is your community interested in learning more about the Law? Our Team is ready to meet with you!

To request a presentation, contact us:



koganaawsawin  
@anishinabek.ca

# ENACTING

*the Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Law*

## 1. MEET

Koganaawsawin meets with Anishinabek Chiefs, Councils and communities to provide information and answer questions about the Law.



## 2. DECIDE

Anishinabek First Nation Chiefs and Councils decide to enact the Law through their community's law-making process.



## 3. SIGN

Koganaawsawin and the Anishinabek First Nation sign a community agreement, outlining the responsibilities of Koganaawsawin and the community.



## 4. ESTABLISH

Koganaawsawin works with Anishinabek communities to establish community standards, and a Child & Family Services Committee.



## 5. RATIFY

Ratification of the Agreement, following the conclusion of negotiations with Canada and Ontario in the area of child, youth, and family well-being.



## 6. IMPLEMENT

Begin implementation.



## 7. SELF-GOVERN

Become self-governing in the area of child, youth, and family well-being.



**KOGANAAWSAWIN.CA**

## Robinson Huron Treaty Litigation Fund hosts ceremony honouring 174th anniversary of 1850 treaty

**ROBINSON HURON TREATY TERRITORY** — On September 9, the Robinson Huron Treaty Litigation Fund (RHTLF) held a ceremony and media availability on the final day of the 2024 Robinson Huron Treaty (RHT) Gathering at the Anderson Farm Museum in Sudbury, to commemorate the signing of the Robinson Huron Treaty of 1850. The event also celebrated the signing of the Settlement Agreement for Past Compensation in the RHT annuities case and the distribution of the funds to the 21 RHT First Nations.

Hundreds of community members joined RHTLF leadership as it acknowledged and showed our appreciation for neighbours and supporters that stepped-up to support the need for the Crown governments to honour their obligations and responsibilities set out in the Treaty, particularly the Augmentation Promise. The ceremony also featured acknowledgement for the role of the Elders and Keynotes from Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation Chief Patsy Corbiere on behalf of Assembly of First Nations National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak, and Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Linda Debassige.

In 2012, the RHTLF, a Trust established by the 21 RHT First Nations to pursue the Annuity Claim, initiated litigation against the Crown in right of Canada and Ontario for violating the Augmentation Promise in the Treaty, which obligates the Crown to augment the annuity if resource wealth generated in the Treaty territory enables the government to do so without incurring a loss.

The annuity was last augmented in 1874 to its current level of \$4.00 per person, per year.

The RHTLF and its Legal Team has been successful in its litigation strategy at every level of court including the recent Restoule decision of the Supreme Court of Canada, issued on July 26, 2024.

After Anishinaabe wins in the Ontario Superior Court and the Ontario Court of Appeal, Canada and Ontario and have been working with the RHTLF at the negotiation table to find common ground for resolving the annuities case outside of the courts. On June 17, 2023, the RHTLF announced a \$10 billion settlement to resolve claims related to past annuities.

The RHTLF Chiefs and Trustees met on January 3, 2024, and signed the Settlement Agreement. The agreement was shortly thereafter signed by Ontario Minister of Indigenous Affairs Greg Rickford and the federal Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations Gary Anandasangaree.

On February 26, the Chief Justice of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice the Honourable Geoffrey B. Morawetz issued a Judgment giving effect to the Settlement Agreement for Past Compensation, signifying that all the steps required to finalize the Settlement Agreement had been completed. The RHTLF received \$10.0 B in compensation proceeds from the Crown, \$5.0 B from Canada and \$5.0 B from Ontario, which has been or is being distributed according to the Compensation Disbursement Agreement signed by the 21 RHT First Nations.

## Anishinabek Nation kicks off eighth annual Treaties Recognition Week

**ANISHINABEK NATION HEAD OFFICE** – The Anishinabek Nation kicked-off the eighth annual Treaties Recognition Week with an episode about the Robinson Huron Treaty Annuities Claim on the Anishinabek Nation Bemaadizijig Ganoonindwaa—Talking to People Podcast.

“Treaty education and public education will help in our efforts to combat and eliminate racism,” says Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Linda Debassige. “We have supported teachers by creating online resources as well as books and puzzles so that they can bring education about First Nations and the treaty relationship in the classroom. Now we have a podcast that reaches a wider audience, and anyone can learn about various topics and issues related to the Anishinabek.”

The Anishinabek Nation has been a leader in developing various resources annually to support public education such as the Bemaadizijig Ganoonindwaa—Talking to People Podcast, which launched in June 2024 and focusses on the territory’s issues and initiatives.

“This podcast’s episode features Mike Restoule who talks about the Go Forward Initiative for the Robinson Huron Treaty. Bemaadizijig Ganoonindwaa and complements other storytelling vehicles

such as the Anishinabek News and videos compiled on the Anishinabek Nation YouTube channel,” says Grand Council Chief Debassige.

Treaties Recognition Week is the first week of November every year and is a designated to honour the importance of treaties and help Ontarians learn more about treaty rights, relationships, and responsibilities. The education and awareness of treaties made with First Nations will help Canadian citizens understand their own obligations as subjects of treaty conditions in this country.

The Anishinabek Nation is committed to supporting a clear and responsible understanding of the treaty relationship and will observe Treaties Recognition Week this week from November 4-8 by sharing information and resources virtually through its social media channels and the Anishinabek News.

Bemaadizijig Ganoonindwaa—Talking to People can be listened to on all podcast platforms and the Anishinabek Nation YouTube channel. Listeners are encouraged to like and subscribe to the podcast.

Wampum belt puzzles, along with other treaty-related learning resources, can be purchased through the order form or by contacting [orders@anishinabek.ca](mailto:orders@anishinabek.ca).



## ANISHINABEK NATION Bemaadizijig Ganoonindwaa *Talking to People*



### PODCAST

**Find us wherever you listen to your podcasts.**

# Former Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn Chief participates in unveiling of Rainbow Veterans of Canada badge

By Rick Garrick

OTTAWA — Former Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn Chief Wendy Jocko, a Canadian Armed Forces veteran, was honoured to participate in the unveiling of the Rainbow Veterans of Canada badge on April 19 at the Canadian War Museum. The badge was granted by the Canadian Heraldic Authority this past December to the Rainbow Veterans of Canada, which represents Canadian Armed Forces veterans impacted by the LGBT Purge and veterans who identify as members of the 2SLGBTQI+ community.

“It was certainly a great honour for me personally to be invited to that occasion because I am also a veteran,” Jocko says. “I was really honoured to have participated in their victory and the unveiling of this new Rainbow Veterans of Canada badge.”

Jocko participated along with Governor General Mary Simon, Samy Khalid, Chief Herald of Canada, and other officials during the unveiling of the Rainbow Veterans of Canada badge.

“We gather here to acknowledge our past, to recognize the hardship faced by the Rainbow Veterans of Canada, and to celebrate a new chapter of recognition and respect,”

Jocko says during the unveiling. “Our Rainbow Veterans have fought not only on the battlefields for our nation but also on the home front for their rights, dignity, and respect.

They have stood tall against the harshest winds of discrimination and exclusion, and they have persevered.”

Jocko adds that the unveiling of the new badge by Governor General Mary Simon represents a landmark victory in the ongoing struggle against discrimination and exclusion.

“This new badge is not just a piece of metal and fabric, but a symbol of acknowledgement, acceptance, and inclusion,” Jocko says. “It is a testament to the courage, tenacity, and integrity of our Rainbow Veterans, who have served our country with honour and pride.”

Jocko says she was also invited to speak during the ground-breaking ceremony for the 2SLGBTQI+ National Monument, which is called Thunderhead, on May 1 in Ottawa.

“Thunderhead is not just a monument, it is a beacon of hope, a testament to equality and a reminder of our collective journey towards acceptance and understanding,” Jocko says



Former Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn Chief Wendy Jocko was honoured to participate along with Governor General Mary Simon and other dignitaries during the unveiling of the Rainbow Veterans of Canada badge on April 19 at the Canadian War Museum. - Photo supplied

during her comments at the ground-breaking ceremony. “It acknowledges the dark chapters in our history, like the LGBT Purge, and commemorates the resilience of those who endured. It also stands as a promise of our commitment to seek justice, to never forget the past, and to ensure such discrimination does not occur in the future.”

Jocko says the LGBT Purge was a prolonged and widespread campaign by the federal government from the 1950s to the 1990s and a dark chapter in the country’s history.

“Thousands of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender members of the Canadian Armed Forces, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and the federal public service were systematically identified and expelled,” Jocko says.

“The monument we break ground for today will stand as a beacon of education, enlightenment, and inspiration. It will reflect the

profound impacts of discrimination experienced by Canada’s 2SLGBTQI+ communities, and yet, it will also radiate the power of perseverance, the triumph of love over prejudice, and the enduring quest for equality.”

Jocko says she met a Canadian Armed Forces veteran at the ceremony who she attended basic training with in 1979, noting that the veteran had been persecuted and released from the military.

“So she lost her career because of it,” Jocko says.

Jocko looks forward to the public unveiling of the monument, which is scheduled for 2025.

“Everybody has the obligation to treat each other as an equal,” Jocko says. “So bringing things like this to light is very important.”

# Wampum Belt Ceremony held between Garden River First Nation and Sault Ste. Marie

By Rick Garrick

GARDEN RIVER FIRST NATION — Garden River First Nation recently hosted a Wampum Belt Ceremony featuring an exchange of a wampum belt and gifts between Garden River Chief Karen Bell and Sault Ste. Marie Mayor Matthew Shoemaker on Sept. 30. The ceremony was held at the Garden River First Nation Community Centre after the successful conclusion of Garden River’s Cultural Competency project, funded through the Department of Canadian Heritage’s Community Support, Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Initiative, which has fostered deeper relationships and enhanced understanding between Garden River First Nation and Sault Ste. Marie.

“The idea of the wampum belt was to bind the two communities with respect to finding this path of prosperity and friendship,” says Darrell Boissoneau, cultural services manager at Garden River First Nation, noting that the idea was developed by Garden River First Nation’s previous chief and council and Sault Ste. Marie’s previous mayor and council. “There were a number of features to the ceremony, that occurred a couple of weeks back, and it’s presenting our world view. Wampum belts give the story and records our history of certain significant events that have happened with us, so whether it was a time of war or a time of peace, these wampum belts were sent out to unite

the people. So the Wampum Belt ceremony ... was done to create this framework of diplomacy between Garden River and the City of Sault Ste. Marie.”

Boissoneau says the design of the wampum belt featured two houses on each side representing the City Hall in Sault Ste. Marie and the Lodge in Garden River First Nation.

“There’s a line that runs across these two places that signifies the path of peace and friendship and alliance, and that’s what the two communities have committed to do, to walk together in peace, to walk together in friendship and to really build a strong alliance with one another,” Boissoneau says. “It’s a road of peace and a door to prosperity as well because the two communities agreed that what benefits the City of Sault Ste. Marie economically or socially will also benefit Garden River as well, so it creates this equal partnership. And this is historic because I don’t believe this has been done anywhere else with respect to any kind of municipality.”

Boissoneau says the two communities have committed to feasting the wampum belt on an annual basis.

“That is intended to create this ongoing relationship forever,” Boissoneau says. “They passed that responsibility on to future chief and councils and future mayor and councils that this belt will be honoured every year.”



Garden River First Nation’s Cultural Competency project featured a variety of events to foster deeper relationships and enhanced understanding between the two communities.

Boissoneau says Garden River First Nation also presented a beaver pelt to the City of Sault Ste. Marie.

“Metaphorically speaking, we offered that beaver pelt to the city so that whenever they came to Garden River, they would always find comfort next to the warmth of the fire and that they would find safety in our community as well,” Boissoneau says.

Boissoneau says the curriculum for the Cultural Competency project was designed for participants to learn and receive teachings from a number of areas, including the Creation story of the Anishinabek people.

“Having that ability to share with the city was really important,” Boissoneau says. “The idea there was building the relationship between two diverse communities that have perhaps two different world views on how they see the world and kind of bringing them

together so the two communities can find a common ground to advance the aspirations of both communities.”

Garden River had previously partnered with Sault Ste. Marie on a First Nation-Municipal Community Economic Development Initiative, which was implemented by the Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

“Our partnership began in early 2023 and will continue into 2025,” says Cheyenne Nolan, manager of community development at Garden River. “With this partnership, we wanted to develop a friendship accord, working together to develop mission statements, vision values.”

A video about the Cultural Competency project is posted online at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=2FPmpl6hSqw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2FPmpl6hSqw).

# Anishinabek leaders advocate for greater accessibility to resources

By Rick Garrick

THUNDER BAY — Fort William Chief Michele Solomon, Long Lake #58 Chief Judy Desmoulin, and Pays Plat's Chris Mushquash were featured on the first day of the NNADAP Conference 2024, held Nov. 5-7 in Thunder Bay. Hosted by the Ontario Regional Addictions Partnership Committee, the NNADAP (National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program) conference also featured a range of workshops and presentations at the Best Western Plus NorWester Hotel and Conference Centre.

"I was excited to have the opportunity to give welcoming at the NNADAP conference — it's kind of like a coming home for me because I spent most of my career working at a NNADAP treatment centre, Dilico," Chief Solomon says. "I have a very heartfelt connection to that treatment centre because my mother, Rochelle Johnson, was very instrumental in the development of the treatment centre. So I have a very deep connection to the NNADAP conference and all that NNADAP is."

Chief Solomon says there was a time when she knew all the NNADAP workers across the province.

"If anybody had their finger to the pulse of what was happening in treatment for Indigenous people, it was NNADAP workers," Chief Solomon says. "You could call any of them and they really knew what the

resources were out there and it was really a network of helpers for our community, a network of people who could get people to the right place to get help."

Chief Desmoulin delivered a Healing with Strategy presentation at the conference, where she stressed that there has always been an attack on First Nations children and families.

"Healthy and strong children and families are the reason different races of people survive and thrive, so my talk today is based on strategies, but I just want to stress that government had a strategy as well to try and make us disappear," Chief Desmoulin says. "They had their strategies through powers and procedures, laws, but obviously that didn't work, we're still here, we're still sitting here and learning from each other, sharing with one another and just motivating each other to keep inspiring one another to keep going."

Chief Desmoulin says the whole purpose of the government's strategy with the Indian Residential Schools was to take the Indian out of the child.

"The government had a strategy to try and get rid of us, so I thought, OK, we need strategies to get out of this as well," Chief Desmoulin says. "We need plans in how we're going to get back on track and go past that period of time where we were taken off our healthy road."



Long Lake #58 Chief Judy Desmoulin and Pays Plat's Chris Mushquash delivered presentations on Healing with Strategy and Trauma Informed Care and Intergenerational Trauma at the NNADAP Conference 2024, held Nov. 5-7 at the Best Western Plus NorWester Hotel and Conference Centre in Thunder Bay.

Chief Desmoulin says she recently met with a youth who had not used any drugs or alcohol for nine weeks after participating in Long Lake #58's Better Together Wellness Strategy.

"He said, 'One of things that you guys talked about [during the Better Together Wellness Strategy sessions] was you need to change your friends, you need to change some of your environment,'" Chief Desmoulin says. "'I really did it,' he said, 'I changed my friends, I didn't answer their texts anymore, I didn't respond to their invites to come out and do those things. For the first few weeks, I just hung out with my mom.' He said, 'I've got my part-time job now, I just come to my job, do my [job] and go home and find ways to keep busy.' And he said, 'Give me a few more weeks and I'll be able to come and be on your team to help.'"

Mushquash, Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Mental Health and Addiction, professor at Lakehead University and Northern Ontario School of Medicine University and clinical psychologist at Dilico Anishi-

nabek Family Care, delivered a Trauma Informed Care and Intergenerational Trauma presentation during the conference.

"It's important that we look very carefully at these questions of intergenerational trauma and how to be trauma-informed but also really look to the strengths and knowledge inherent within our communities and within our cultures to address the challenges that we have and continue to have the belief in our ability to work on that together," Mushquash says.

Mushquash says during his presentation that he tries to use some of the stories he has heard from others as well as those he has experienced himself to organize his thinking.

"I always say that if you're paying attention to your culture, if you're paying attention to who you are, to what your responsibilities are, if you understand your identity, you know what your role is, the universe shows things to you," Mushquash says. "It reminds you of those things, it helps you understand them in a new way sometimes when you need those lessons at the very moment."




*Save the Date*

**October 14-17, 2025**

*The Anishinabek Nation Economic Development Department is proud to host its 3rd Annual Anishinabek Nation Economic Development Opportunities Forum from October 14-17, 2025.*

*ANEDO gathers business owners, economic development officers, and government and industry representatives to build relationships, share best practices, and learn about emerging opportunities to empower, evolve, and evoke economic development.*

 **Casino Rama Resort, Chippewas of Rama First Nation**

This forum is welcome to everyone: Anishinabek Nation member First Nations and other communities; Indigenous and non-Indigenous Business Owners; Procurement Organizations; Funders; and more.

# ‘If you see it, report it’ says Anishinabek Police Service Sergeant Larocque

By Jesse Johnson and Marci Becking

SAULT STE. MARIE – Anishinabek Police Services (APS) sent Sergeant Chantal Larocque from the Nipissing detachment to deliver the keynote address on Day 1 of the Nimaajii-toomin Maamwii (We are on this Journey Together) Health Conference held on October 22-24 in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.

“One of the biggest complaints in First Nations is the drug problem,” says Sergeant Larocque. “No one in the room can say they don’t have a drug issue in their community – in a First Nation or not. All communities have an epidemic.”

The Anishinabek Police Service supports 16 Anishinabek communities. They currently have 92 officers and 32 civilians. Some positions include a human trafficking detective; a crime unit/intelligent detectives; a recruitment/media officer; a crime analyst (human trafficking); and, a Drug Enforcement Unit is currently underway.

She explains there are challenges with staffing, support services, geography, mental health, and the lack of funding APS experiences compared to other jurisdictions in Ontario. There could be one officer covering three First Nations at any given time.

“It’s hard to do surveillance because within two minutes of me being in a community, everyone knows that I’m there and who I am. Writing warrants is a lot of work. The courts have zero empathy for the challenges in Indigenous policing. We have the same requirements that off-reserve have, but we don’t have the same resources to do the work,” Sergeant Larocque expresses. “We

had to fight the government so that we could have Specialty Units. We were not allowed to have them. That was a part of our Tripartite Agreement.”

Sergeant Larocque’s message to the health care workers at the conference is that facing the drug issues in the community is a team effort.

“It can’t just be the police. We have to work together to eradicate the drugs from the First Nations. If you see something, call right away. Grab the plate number. Outside gangs are taking advantage of First Nations people. They hook up with a First Nation female who is most likely being trafficked, take over her house and sell drugs out of it. They know that First Nations people don’t like ratting out people. People on the rez hate calling dispatcher or they think that snitches get stitches. If you see it, report it. They aren’t your family. Call the hotline 1-888-310-1122. Do not text me, the Chief, or call the band office. Call the hotline. If it’s an emergency, dial 9-1-1.”

She notes that since they got on social media, they have been showing photos of traffic stops and the drug busts. They have also done a lot of outreach through their videos with youth, the Little NHL, and recruiting; however, cautions parents to ensure safety.

“A big piece of advice for parents: do not charge phones in your children’s or teen’s bedrooms at night. Charge them elsewhere. You don’t know what’s going on with the phones. There is bullying on social media, they are taking photos of their bodies. Keep



Anishinabek Police Services Sergeant Chantal Larocque spoke at the 10th Annual Health Conference in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., on Oct 22. - Photo by Jesse Johnson

the phones out of their bedrooms.”

APS can support our Elders from abuse as well.

“If you start seeing financial abuse, it’s really important that you report it. Have a Power of Attorney for finances and another for health. We can freeze bank accounts if we suspect things are going on,” says Sergeant Larocque.

She also acknowledges that the uniform can be intimidating, and people have PTSD from seeing her.

“Personally, I have done everything to remove that fear from the uniform. I’ve been to calls where I’ve seen children’s fear level go down because ‘It’s just Chantal’. It’s intimidating when I put on the uniform.”

The Anishinabek Police Services is funded 52 per cent federal and 48 per cent provincial and meets provincial standards. They’ve recently had more cultural supports for mental and spiritual health.

“Chief Skye has pushed cultural services

for PTSD – horse therapy, etc. We negotiated \$13,000 per member for psychological services, which works out to one a session a week. We started more ceremony with George Couchie. We have access to ceremony. For everyone it’s different. Personally, I loved going to the schools with the kids and grounding myself that way.”

Larocque also showed a fun recruitment video out of Fort William First Nation and they are looking for members to join APS to police in First Nations.

If you have an emergency, call 1-888-310-1122. In the future:

- Don’t send text messages to officers;
- Don’t call the Chief for police-related issues;
- Don’t wait to call;
- Don’t assume it’s already been reported;
- Reporting does not mean you’re a rat, it’s loving your community; and,
- Snitches don’t get stitches, they get rewarded.



# GEGWA NEND'NGE

# SAVE THE DATE

## Traditional Gathering: Culture is Connection

Casino Rama Resort and Conference Centre  
Chippewas of Rama First Nation

Hosted by the Anishinabek Nation HIV Program

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<p style="font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0;">Chippewas of Rama First Nation</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; margin: 0;">Feb 4-6, 2025</p>
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## What is the **Indian Boarding Homes Class Action?**

In the 1950s, the **Indian Boarding Homes Program** placed First Nations and Inuit children in private homes for the purpose of attending school. **This Settlement provides compensation to people placed in these homes.** You are a Primary Class Member if Canada placed you in a private home, between **September 1, 1951 and June 30, 1992**. You may still be eligible if you were placed after June 30, 1992. People who were placed in private homes, but **died on or after July 24, 2016**, may also be eligible, and their estate can apply on their behalf.

## How can I know if I am eligible?

You can use the eligibility checker available on the Indian Boarding Homes Program Class Action website at: **<https://boardinghomesclassaction.com/eligibilitychecker>**

## When can I apply?

You can start applying for compensation starting **Wednesday August 21, 2024**.

## How can I start my Application?

Starting on August 21, 2024, you can visit the website **<https://boardinghomesclassaction.com/>** to find the claim forms. You can submit claims online, or by downloading and mailing it to the Administrator.

### What if I don't want to participate?

If you want to sue Canada on your own for your placement in the Indian Boarding Homes Program, you must Opt-Out. You will need to submit an **Opt-Out form** before the expiry date of **Monday July 22nd, 2024**.

### How do I opt-out?

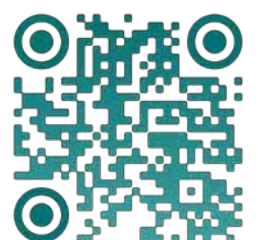
You can visit **the website to fill out the online Opt-Out Form**. You can also download the PDF form and email it to class counsel at:

**Klein Lawyers LLP:**  
 ibhclassaction@callkleinlawyers.com  
**Dionne Schulze s.e.n.c:**  
 percival@dionneschulze.ca

### You can also contact the Claims Administrator at:

**Email:**  
 claims@boardinghomesclassaction.com  
**Phone:**  
 +1 (888) 499-1144

For more information,  
 visit our website by  
 scanning the QR Code.



# Chippewas of Rama citizen Catches the Ace for over \$100,000

CHIPPEWAS OF RAMA FIRST NATION - The Anishinabek Nation 7th Generation Charity (AN7GC) began selling tickets for its third instalment of its popular Anishinabek Catch the Ace online weekly progressive raffle on October 18, 2023 and nearly a year later in the 49th week of the raffle, the weekly winning ticket holder's envelope was opened to finally reveal the Ace of Spades.

On September 25, 2024, Shawna McKenzie of Chippewas of Rama First Nation, who found the Ace of Spades in envelope #51, won the Week #49 weekly jackpot of \$7,768, as well as the progressive jackpot of \$93,225 for a grand total win of over \$100,000!

"We couldn't have asked for a better outcome," said AN7GC Manager, Jason Restoule. "We've made some adjustments based on our experience running the raffle twice prior to this one, which helped grow the popularity of the raffle from day one. But the biggest factor in the success of this raffle was the Ace of Spades staying hidden for over 40 weeks. When people see the Jackpots growing each week while at the same time seeing the shrinking number of unopened envelopes, it's hard to pass up the chance to play".

Weekly draws took place every Wednesday evening at 7:00pm EST, with weekly ticket sales split into three portions: 20 per cent to the weekly jackpot, 30 per cent to the progressive Catch the Ace jackpot, and 50 per cent to the AN7GC to be used to help

support Anishinabek citizens in need across Ontario. Each week, one lucky ticket holder won the weekly jackpot and had an opportunity to win the progressive Catch the Ace jackpot by having their chosen numbered envelope opened to reveal a playing card.

Following the success of this third raffle, the AN7GC has plans to start another Anishinabek Catch the Ace raffle in the coming months.

"The Ace of Spades staying hidden for so long resulted in an explosion of growth and popularity over the last eight to 10 weeks of the raffle. Our goal is to continue to make it grow, resulting in bigger jackpots, but more importantly, more funds being available to help our Anishinabek First Nations citizens in need," Restoule said. "Ticket buyers are responsible for the entire success of the raffle. Whether the motivation to purchase tickets is to win the jackpot or to support those in need, each ticket purchased helps make a positive difference. Chi-miigwech to all of those who participated by buying tickets and who helped by spreading the word - we are extremely appreciative of all the generous support."

Over \$310,000 worth of tickets were sold over the course of the raffle, resulting in over \$155,000 in funds raised for the AN7GC. Details of the raffle along with the results of all 49 weeks of draws can be found at [www.AnishinabekAce.ca](http://www.AnishinabekAce.ca).

The AN7GC is a self-sufficient charity



Shawna McKenzie of Chippewas of Rama First Nation and her son Chord accept the prize cheque in front of the world's largest dreamcatcher (verified by Guinness World Records) at Chippewas of Rama First Nation's pow wow grounds. - Photo supplied

committed to improving the quality of life of Anishinabek citizens by providing financial support, where no other funding exists, in the areas of Education, Health, Youth, Elders, Culture, Social, Emergency Crisis, and Disaster Relief, and relies fully on the success of its fundraising initiatives like Catch the Ace in order to support its goals and objectives. The AN7GC also raises funds through other initiatives such as the Annual Anishinabek Evening of Excellence, Annual Anishinabek, Veterans Memorial Golf Tournament, the Union of Ontario Indians 'Giving at Work' Program and private donations.

The AN7GC also provides open access to its 'Hotel Discount Program' as well as partnership with Enterprise Rent-a-Car whereby citizens are provided with discounts at partner hotels and on car rentals, and a portion of those sales go directly to the AN7GC.

The funds raised by the AN7GC are disbursed throughout all of the Anishinabek Nation's 39 First Nations through a 'Grant Program' whereby citizens apply for grants and must meet various criteria to be considered for approval.

More information about the AN7GC can be found at [www.an7gc.ca](http://www.an7gc.ca).

## Anishinabek Nation 7th Generation Charity



**The Anishinabek Nation 7th Generation Charity (AN7GC) is a self-sufficient registered charity relying fully on the success of its fundraising initiatives in order to support its Mission and Vision.**

**The AN7GC is committed to improving the quality of life of Anishinabek citizens by providing financial support, where no other funding exists, in the areas of Education, Health, Youth, Culture, Social, Elders, Emergency Crisis and Disaster Relief.**

**Our Mission**

**As the official charitable fundraising arm of the Anishinabek Nation, the Anishinabek Nation 7th Generation Charity is committed to improving the quality of life of Anishinabek Nation citizens by providing support where no other funding exists.**

**Our Vision**

**The Anishinabek Nation 7th Generation Charity will help create educated, healthy, and culturally enriched citizens that will continue to grow a stable, strong, and prosperous Anishinabek Nation.**

**Chi-Miigwech to our generous partners!**



To make a donation please visit [www.an7gc.ca/donate](http://www.an7gc.ca/donate)

**Anishinabek Nation 7th Generation Charity**  
 1 Migizi Miikan, P.O. Box 711, North Bay, ON P1B 8J8  
 Registered Charitable #895952471RR0001

Phone: (705) 497-9127  
 Email: [an7gc@anishinabek.ca](mailto:an7gc@anishinabek.ca)  
[www.an7gc.ca](http://www.an7gc.ca)

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PIECE PUZZLE  
59.4 x 42.0 cm  
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# Mshkiki gathering teaches participants about traditional medicines

By Rick Garrick

**THUNDER BAY** — Bear grease teachings were featured during the Anishinabek Employment and Training Services and Kinooomaadziwin Education Body’s Mshkiki gathering on Oct. 24-25 at the Best Western Plus NorWester Hotel and Conference Centre in Thunder Bay.

“I handled bear fat, I convert that through teachings of the bear grease and I went further — I went and shared teachings of different plants that we add to that,” says Biigtigong Nishnaabeg Elder Garland Moses, who delivered the bear grease-making workshop. “We end up with a product that is called minigun, minigun is good for pain, pain inside our muscles, our bones. I even say sometimes we have broken heart, our mental is off balance, it’s always nice to know that the bear is here to give us courage to keep on moving in life.”

Elder Moses says the world is all about life, including the plants and animals that the Creator put on Turtle Island for people to use.

“We try to work with other people to share that knowledge and hopefully they will go and pass that on to our generations to follow us,” Elder Moses says. “We’ve got to get back to the land, the land is so important

to our survival. Far too often we forget, and when we forget, we let people destroy that land and we have to try to figure out how to put it back together.”

Moses says the Elders used to tell him many years ago that it was time to get back to the traditional way of life.

“Our culture, our history, our traditions because some day, somebody is going to come and visit us,” Elder Moses says. “They’re going to ask us to help them, the world is going crazy and the Anishinabe is the ones they’re going to come and ask, ‘How could you help us? How could we put this back together?’”

Elder Moses says he asked the Elders for help when he quit drinking alcohol more than 50 years ago.

“One of the things they told me [was] to get back into culture, get back into your way of life because it’s only going to help you,” Elder Moses says. “Since then, I’ve met a lot of people [who] have given me a lot of teachings, and I went through years of ceremony in the bush.”

Raphael Moses, a Biigtigong Nishnaabeg citizen who has been learning about traditional medicines since he was a child and wrote and published a book about traditional medicines in 2014, *Holistic Adventures*,



Biigtigong Nishnaabeg Elder Garland Moses and a group of participants prepare to bottle a batch of minigun during the Anishinabek Employment and Training Services and Kinooomaadziwin Education Body’s Mshkiki gathering on Oct. 24-25 at the Best Western Plus NorWester Hotel and Conference Centre in Thunder Bay.

spoke about how he began learning about the traditional medicines during his traditional medicine teachings presentation.

“I was very young and just listening to the Elders,” Raphael says, noting that the Elders didn’t speak Anishinaabemowin to the children back then because of what they had learned in Indian Residential School about not speaking their own language. “What we’re doing today, making bear grease and teaching people about the medicines, that’s part of reconciliation, we have the right to do it in public now.”

Raphael also spoke about how the traditional medicines are used for different

conditions as well as the amount of time it takes to harvest them.

“[When] you go out there and harvest Green Boy, it takes anywhere from six-to-eight hours just to collect the plant,” Raphael says. “After that, you take it home and you snip it into quarter-inch pieces. After that, you put it on a table and dry it for up to three days.”

Raphael says he is currently writing a second book about the traditional medicines.

“The first one is all in English,” Raphael says. “The second one is going to be in Anishinaabemowin, and then after that, translated into English.”

# JOIN US

## Early Learning and Child Care Quality Improvement Project

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[tammy.cayer-dokis@anishinabek.ca](mailto:tammy.cayer-dokis@anishinabek.ca)



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